

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01977 070052Z
ACTION EA-12

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT ECON ENRG CH
SUBJ: VISIT TO TATUNG, SHANSI; COAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS

REF: PEKING 1501

1. SUMMARY: USLO OFFICER VISITING TATUNG, SHANSI IN EARLY SEPTEMBER WAS TOLD THAT THE PRC'S TOTAL COAL PRODUCTION IN 1976 WAS 488 MILLION TONS WITH PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO GO OVER THE 500 MILLION MARK THIS YEAR. NO SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED WITH STANDARD BRIEFINGS REMARKABLY DEVOID OF POLITICAL CONTENT. END SUMMARY.

2. USLO OFFICER TRAVELED TO TATUNG IN NORTHERN SHANSI PROVINCE SEPTEMBER 2-4 AND VISITED A LOCAL COAL MINE, RUG FACTORY, AND AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BRIGADE. THE STANDARD BRIEFINGS CONTAINED VERY FEW POLITICAL REFERENCES, EVEN TO THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS OR TO THE "GANG OF FOUR" CAMPAIGN. POSTER ACTIVITY WAS LIMITED TO THE HAILING OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS. NO SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED ALTHOUGH SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE SEEN IN FRONT OF TATUNG'S EXHIBITION HALL
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ON SEPTEMBER 4. WHEN ASKED, THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE SAID THAT IT PROBABLY WAS A MEETING TO WELCOME A VISITING PROPAGANDA TEAM.

3. BRIEFINGS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITS VISITED WERE FRANK AND THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE EVEN ADMITTED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT WALLS AROUND THE FRUIT

ORCHARDS WERE CONSTRUCTED TO "KEEP THE BAD PEOPLE FROM STEALING THE FRUIT." DURING A VISIT TO CHIN-HUAKUNG (NO. 9) COAL MINE (VISITED BY ANOTHER USLO OFFICER IN JULY; SEE REFTEL AND PEKING A-57), USLO OFFICER WAS TOLD BY ITS REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR. HAO, THAT THE PRC'S TOTAL COAL PRODUCTION IN 1976 WAS 488 MILLION TONS, A "LARGE INCREASE" OVER 1975. HAO STATED THAT PRODUCTION IN 1977 IS EXPECTED TO BE OVER 500 MILLION TONS. LOCAL OFFICIALS ALSO PUT TATUNG'S TOTAL COAL RESERVES AT 70 BILLION TONS, COVERING 2,200 SQUARE KILOMETERS.

4. REFTEL NOTED TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AT THE CHINHUAUNG MINE IN JULY. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS STILL A LARGE MOUNTAIN OF COAL WAITING TRANSPORT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REDUCED AND ONE BULLDOZER WAS BUSY WORKING ON THE PILE. LOADED RAIL CARS WERE OBSERVED AT THE MINE AND SEVERAL TRAINS LOADED WITH COAL WERE SEEN IN THE TATUNG AREA.
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

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